

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method for detecting a transmission mode in digital audio receivers using the null symbol length which varies depending on the transmission mode. The transmission mode is determined by detecting the starting and end points of a null symbol. The starting point of the null symbol is determined as the point at which the mean square value of a received signal suddenly drops. After the starting point of the null symbol is detected, the mean square values of the signal are checked for and then the point with the maximum mean square value is determined as the end point of the null symbol. The null symbol length is calculated from the starting and end points of the null symbol. The transmission mode is estimated by comparing the calculated null symbol length with a predetermined range of null symbol length for each mode defined by the digital audio broadcasting scheme.